

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 106, wherein the ratio between the water absorbed by the haemostatic sponge according to claim 106 and the water absorbed by a conventional absorbable gelatin sponge is at the most 0.95.

12-13. (canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said composition is in the form of a haemostatic sponge, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the haemostatic sponge is covered by a top sheet.

15. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 14, wherein the top sheet is removable.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said composition is dry.

18. (Previously presented) A haemostatic paste prepared by pre-wetting the haemostatic composition according to claim 103 with a liquid to create a paste, wherein a haemostatic composition is in the form of a powder or flakes.

19-22. (canceled)

23. (Withdrawn/Currently amended) A method for producing a cross-linked and sterile haemostatic composition according to claim 103 comprising the steps of:

- i) mixing gelatine and hyaluronic acid or a ~~hyaluronate salt derivative~~ thereof, and a solvent, and
- ii) treating the mixture obtained in step i) with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 23, wherein said method comprises a further step of drying the mixture obtained in step i) before treating the mixture with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C according to step ii).

25-26. (canceled)

27. (Withdrawn / Currently amended) A method for preparing the haemostatic composition according to claim 17, said method comprising the steps of:

- i) mixing gelatin, hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate salt derivative~~ thereof, and a solvent;
- ii) cross-linking said composition with dry heat at 110-200°C; and
- iii) drying said mixture.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Withdrawn / Currently amended) A method according to claim 23, wherein the mixing of gelatine, hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate salt derivative~~ thereof, and a solvent is performed by any of the following alternatives:

- a) mixing gelatine with hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate salt derivative~~ thereof and subsequently adding a solvent;
- b) mixing a solution of gelatine with a solution of hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate salt derivative~~ thereof;

c) mixing gelatine with a solution of hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt derivative thereof;

d) mixing a solution of gelatine with hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt derivative thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27, wherein said mixing is performed under mechanical influence.

31-35. (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn / Currently amended) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt derivative thereof, is provided in the form of a gel.

37. (Withdrawn / Previously presented) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is performed at a temperature from 20°C to 40°C.

38. (Withdrawn / Previously presented) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is conducted for 6 to 24 hours.

39. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is performed by freeze-drying.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27 wherein said mixing is performed by whipping, stirring, spinning, static mixing, motionless mixing or centrifugation.

42-47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said composition comprises at the most 85% (w/w) of said gelatin.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said composition comprises at the most 75% (w/w) of said gelatin.

51. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said composition comprises at the most 70% (w/w) of said gelatin.

52. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said composition comprises at the most 65% (w/w) of said gelatin.

53. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said composition comprises at the most 60% (w/w) of said gelatin.

54. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 15% (w/w).

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 25% (w/w).

57. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 30% (w/w).

58. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 35% (w/w).

59. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 40% (w/w).

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) is physically cross-linked.

62. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) has a pH value in the range of from 5 to 9.

63-102. (Canceled)

103. (Currently amended) A sterile haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, wherein said gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, is stabilized with dry heat at 110-200°C, and wherein said haemostatic composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

104. (Canceled)

105. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103~~any of claims 101-104~~, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge, powder or flakes.

106. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 105, wherein said composition is in the form of a haemostatic sponge and wherein said sponge absorbs less water than an absorbable gelatin sponge.

107. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103~~any of claims 101-104~~, wherein said composition comprises at the most 80% (w/w) of said gelatin.

108. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103~~any of claims 101-104~~, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a ~~hyaluronate~~ salt ~~derivative~~ thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 20% (w/w).

109. (Canceled).

110. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said dry heat treatment at 110-200°C is conducted for 15 minutes to 6 hours.

111. (Canceled)

112. (Canceled)

113. (Canceled)

114. (new) The haemostatic composition according to claim 103, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a salt thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w).